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Attorney's Docket 008312-0309409
Client Reference: T4HT-04S0253-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
TOKUDA et al.

Confirmation Number: 8758

Application No.: 10/830,124

Group Art Unit: 2854

Filed: April 23, 2004

Examiner: Hamdan, Wasseem H

For: IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM

**Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

REPLY TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith is an amendment/response for this application.

FEES

The fee for claims and extension of time (37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17) has been calculated as shown below:

FEE PAYMENT

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$0.00 to Deposit Account No. 033975. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: October 21, 2004
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Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement dated September 21, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species I. This election is made with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 read on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement set forth in MPEP §803 has not been satisfied. For example, each of independent apparatus claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 16 recites a frequency component extracting unit which extracts a spatial frequency component unique to key information and a reconstructing unit which reconstructs the sub-information from the spatial frequency component extracted by the frequency component extracting unit. As another example, each of independent method claims 19, 23, 24 and 25 recites extracting a spatial frequency component unique to the key information and reconstructing the sub-information from the extracted spatial frequency component. Accordingly, regardless of which species Applicants elect, the search and examination of the entire application requires the search and examination of, at least, these features.

It is further respectfully submitted that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn in order to prevent duplicative examination by the Patent Office and unnecessary expense to Applicants.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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